

11-2012

The Update, November 2012

University of Northern Iowa. College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences.

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THE UPDATE 2012 2013

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

November

RECONROBOTICS: AN INTERVIEW WITH ROBOTICS ENGINEER ANDREW DRENNER



Dogs scamper about the office as former UNI graduate, Andrew Drenner, creates a new generation of crime-fighting robots. Drenner and his colleagues formed this unique working environment when they co-founded ReconRobotics, a company that develops life-saving robotic technology. ReconRobotics is the world leader in tactical, micro-robot systems. They're used by U.S. military and international friendly forces, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, bomb squads and fire/rescue teams. These devices are used to protect their personnel, minimize collateral damage, and gain immediate reconnaissance within dangerous and hostile environments. When asked how he felt being a part of developing such useful

technology. There is no better feeling than knowing the work that you are doing is actively saving lives. Thousands of our micro-robots are in everyday use with law enforcement and military operators all over the world, and have been used for everything from stopping terrorists to resolving hostage situations.

After graduating from UNI with his BS in Computer Science in 2001, Drenner moved to Minneapolis where he received both an MS and a PhD in computer science from the University of Minnesota. While there, he made the connections that have led up to his current work.

I, along with several other students in the Center for Distributed Robotics and our PhD advisor, co-founded ReconRobotics to bring the technology we were developing in the laboratory to real-world situations that could save lives.

These developments in robotics have received numerous forms of recognition, including Popular Science's "Best of What's New 2011" and the 2008 Innovation Award from Cygnus Law Enforcement Group (Tactical Category).

We have also been covered extensively by CNN, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, USA Today, The Economist, and many police and military publications.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

CONTENTS

NOVEMBER 2012

COVER FEATURE

ReconRobotics: An Interview with
Robotics Engineer Andrew Drenner

ARTICLES

4 Karen Mitchell

9 Fritz Hirschberger Exhibition

13 Son's of Jacob Synagogue Film Premier

15 Save the Date: Marketing Promotions Assistant
to Host Variety Show

16 UNI named a Top Pick in 2012 Study Abroad
Rankings by Abroad101

FEATURED ORGANIZATIONS

12 American Chemical Society

14 T.E.A.M

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

7 Steff McGraw - Department of Languages and Literatures

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

8 Drew Kreman - Department of Earth Sciences

REGULAR FEATURES

3 Department News

5 School of Music Events



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DEPARTMENT NEWS

>>ART

■ The University of Northern Iowa Gallery of Art will present a new exhibit, "Fritz Hirschberger: Sur-Rational Paintings and The Fifth Horseman" from Monday, October 29 through Tuesday, November 27. A lecture by Jodi Elowitz titled "After Such Knowledge: The Sur-Rational Holocaust Paintings of Fritz Hirschberger" was held at 7:00 p.m., Monday, October 29, in the Kamerick Art Building, Room 111.

>>COMMUNICATION STUDIES

■ **Chris Ogbondah**, professor of journalism in the Department of Communication Studies, has had an article, "The suppression of symbolic expression and political activism under democratic rule in Nigeria," published in the current issue of the *Journal of Communication and Media Research*. **Dr. Ogbondah** also recently published a chapter, "A Critical Analysis of State-Press Relations in Nigeria, 1999-2005," in *Mass Media and Society in Nigeria*.

■ **Catherine H. Palczewski**, professor in the Department of Communication Studies, presented "When Body Argument Becomes Militant Argument," on September 29 at the 13th Biennial Public Address Conference, hosted by the Department of Communication at the University of Memphis.

>>MUSIC

■ Jazz Band One releases 'The Hard Way.' The latest cd offering from UNI's flagship jazz ensemble, Jazz Band One, will hit campus in time for the band's fall concert November 2.

The disc features the 2011-2012 edition of the band performing live, as well as studio sessions done in the Jazz Studio in the newly-renovated Russell Hall. Copies are \$10. Purchase of the

>>PHILOSOPHY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

■ Harry Brod's, "Superman Is Jewish?: How Comic Book Superheroes Came to Serve Truth, Justice, and the Jewish-American Way", just published by Free Press/Simon & Schuster, has been reviewed as a book that "should take its place as an essential study of the field" (Booklist). He speaks on the book at Prairie Lights Bookstore in Iowa City on November 14 and the Iowa Comic Book Convention (I-CON) in Des Moines on November 10. His analysis of the Jewish nature of our superheroes was the subject of a recent Des Moines Register feature article.

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KAREN MITCHELL TO RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE AWARD



Communication Studies professor, Karen Mitchell, has been selected to receive the Leslie Irene Coger Award for Distinguished Performance by the National Communication Association (NCA). The award was established in 1994 "to recognize a career dedicated to performance," according to the NCA.

The Leslie Irene Coger Award for Distinguished Performance award may be given to directors, producers, teachers, or performers. The award is normally given for a body of performance

or an outstanding career in performance. The award recipient is selected by the Leslie Irene Coger Award Selection Committee.

Paul Siddens and Phyllis Carlin were the main organizers in nominating Mitchell, but Chris Martin, the department head and Dean Joel Haack, also endorsed the nomination.

A number of colleagues and former students wrote letters of

support, along with my mentor and dear friend, Dr. Marion Kleinau, who gave me my sharp artistic vision and love for directing and adapting for the stage.

Mitchell teaches in Performance Studies in the Communication Studies Department, and has been on the faculty at UNI since 1991. She received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from Southern Illinois University, and her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University.

I am from Benton, a small town in Southern Illinois, and although I had been interested in performing in school plays and musicals, it wasn't until my senior year when Lou and Sara Ceci were hired to coach speech and drama that I actually thought about majoring in Speech and Theatre education.

Mitchell has been investing in future performers at UNI for almost 22 years and has had a number of notable accomplishments leading up to this prestigious award.

One accomplishment I'm proud of is founding the SAVE (Students Against a Violent Environment) Forum Actors, a peer theatre troupe dedicated to preventing gender violence on campus. My work with SAVE was originally part of a major grant awarded to the UNI Women's Studies program by the US Department of Justice in 1999. I had the good fortune to work with Dr. Annette Lynch and hundreds of students in the years I directed the program, and Amandajean Nolte, a former SAVE member, is now directing the program.

I have also co-edited and published in leading journals, and I regularly present at major national conferences as well as having been invited to many campuses to serve as a program developer and trainer in interactive theatre for social change.

>> CONTINUED ON BACK PANEL

SCHOOL OF MUSIC EVENTS

UNI Jazz Band One

Friday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.

Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI Jazz Band One, under the direction of Chris Merz will offer a fall concert with repertoire and soloists to be announced.

This event is free and open to the public.

Viola Festival

Friday & Saturday, November 2 & 3,

GBPAC and Russell Hall

Coordinated by faculty artist Julia Bullard, the UNI Viola Festival will offer hands on workshops as well as guest performances. A festival concert will be held at 8 p.m. on Friday, November 2 in Davis Hall. For details, contact Julia. Bullard@uni.edu. *This event is free and open to the public.*

Spotlight Series Concert: Instrumental Concerto

Competition Monday, November 5, 7:30 p.m.

Great Hall, GBPAC

This showcase features talented student finalists competing for the title of Instrumental Concerto Competition winner, and the opportunity to perform as soloist with a premiere School of Music large ensemble in the spring. *This event is ticketed. For tickets, call (319) 273-4TIX.*

Spotlight Series Concert: UNI Singers

Tuesday, November 6, 7:30 p.m.

Great Hall, GBPAC

Under the direction of UNI School of Music professor and conductor John Len Wiles the UNI Singers will present their fall concert. *This event is ticketed. For tickets, call (319) 273-4TIX.*

Guest Artist Recital: Timothy Phillips, clarinet

Wednesday, November 7, 6:00 p.m.

Davis Hall, GBPAC

Visiting artist Timothy Phillips will present a clarinet recital. Timothy Phillips is Assistant Professor of Clarinet at the John

M. Long School of Music at Troy University, principal clarinetist of the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra, and president of the Higher Education Division of the Alabama Music Educators Association. As soloist, he has performed with Concerto Avenna (Warsaw, Poland), the Troy University Symphony Band, University of Illinois Symphonic Band, and University of Illinois Summer Band. *This event is free and open to the public.*

Piano Studio Recital

Wednesday, November 7, 8:00 p.m.

Davis Hall, GBPAC

Faculty artist Dmitri Vorobiev will coordinate this recital featuring student musicians from the piano studio at UNI. *This event is free and open to the public.*

Spotlight Series: UNI Jazz Panthers & Jazz Band III

Thursday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.

Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

The UNI Jazz Panthers, under the direction of Robert Washut, will offer a fall concert with UNI Jazz Band III. Repertoire and soloists to be announced. *This event is ticketed. For tickets, call (319) 273-4TIX.*

Guest Artist Recital: In Stereo

Friday, November 9, 8:00 p.m.

Davis Hall, GBPAC

Visiting artists IN STEREO (featuring Shivhan Dohse and Erica Peel) will present a flute recital. Innovative, captivating and dynamic best describes the ground breaking flute duo, IN STEREO. Classically trained, yet stylistically unique, their performances fuse virtuosic flute playing with original and eclectic cross-cultural music for an electrifying and powerful presentation of sound. *This event is free and open to the public.*

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UNI School of Music Piano Festival
Saturday, November 10, 12:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC

Coordinated by UNI School of Music professor Robin Guy, this festival will feature hands-on studies in piano. *This event requires registration. For more information, please contact Robin.Guy@uni.edu.*

UNI Suzuki School Recital Weekend
Saturday & Sunday, November 10 & 11, 8:00 a.m.
Russell Hall

The UNI Suzuki School will present their bi-annual recital weekend. *This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.uni.edu/music/suzuki*

UNI Horn Choir
Monday, November 12, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC

Under the direction of faculty artist and professor Yu-Ting Su, the UNI Horn Choir will offer a fall recital. *This event is free and open to the public.*

UNI Symphonic Band
Tuesday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall, GBPAC

Under the direction of UNI School of Music professor and conductor S. Daniel Galyen, the Symphonic Band will offer its fall concert. *This event is free and open to the public.*

UNI Student Composer's Concert
Wednesday, November 14, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC

Coordinated by professor of composition and theory Jonathan Schwabe, UNI School of Music student composers will showcase their work in this fall recital. *This event is free and open to the public.*

Northern Iowa Wind Symphony
Thursday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.
Great Hall, GBPAC

Under the direction of UNI School of Music professor and conductor Ronald Johnson, the Wind Symphony will offer its fall concert. *This event is free and open to the public.*

Guest Artist Recital: Mariko Morita, organ
Monday, November 26, 8:30 p.m.
Jebe Hall, GBPAC

Mariko Morita will present an organ recital as part of the 2012-2013 School of Music Organ Recital Series. Mariko Morita is Visiting Assistant Professor of Music-Organ/Accompanist in the Department of Fine and Performing Arts at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) where she accompanies and coaches music students, and performs with the TAMIU Philharmonic Chorale and Laredo Philharmonic Orchestra. The second prize winner of the '99 American Guild of Organist (AGO) Regional Competition in Atlanta. *This event is free and open to the public.*

UNI Opera Scenes Performance
Tuesday, November 27, 7:30 p.m.
Bengtson Auditorium, Russell Hall

UNI Opera, under the direction of Sandra Walden and vocal coach Korey Barrett will present an opera scenes performance. *This event is free and open to the public.*

UNI Percussion Department Concert
Wednesday, November 28, 8:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC

Under the direction of percussion professor Randy Hogancamp and percussion instructor Matthew Andreini, the UNI Percussion, Marimba, West African Drum and Kaji-Daiko (Taiko) Ensembles will offer their fall concert. *This event is free and open to the public.*

Faculty Artist Recital: Jean McDonald, mezzo-soprano, Julia Bullard, viola, and Korey Barrett, piano
Thursday, November 29, 6:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, GBPAC

School of Music faculty artists Jean McDonald, Julia Bullard and Korey Barrett will collaborate to offer this recital. *This event is free and open to the public.*

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

>> STEFF MCGRAW



>>> STEFF PICTURED LEFT

Steff McGraw has gone on a journey and discovered her passions through her major, student organizations and studying abroad. It started with her choice to attend UNI.

My senior year of high school, I knew I wanted to attend college in Iowa, but didn't like the overwhelming size of the other two state schools, nor how small the private colleges were. It's cliché, but UNI felt 'just right.' In addition, I wanted a school that focused heavily on the liberal arts so I could explore different fields before deciding on a major.

Once she began college, her social circle evolved differently than anticipated. My impression at first was that I would meet my friends in the dorms... I've met far more people through student organizations and my classes.

These organizations have impacted her in a variety of positive ways. I've been surprised by how many quality organizations there are to get involved with. Coming in, I was expecting to join a few groups, but I have ended up being either a leader or

member of several, and these organizations have been some of the most rewarding experiences of my college career... In the past, I've been an opinion writer for the Northern Iowan, and this year I'm a senator for the Northern Iowa Student Government, a member of LGBT equality group One Iowa at UNI, and vice president of the UNI Freethinkers and Inquirers (UNIFI.) Though all these organizations have impacted me significantly, I owe much of who I've become to this latter group; I've had the opportunity to become a strong leader and surround myself with people who challenge me intellectually.

Her involvement in these groups correlates with how she spends her free time. She likes to talk about politics, religion and other social issues with her friends. I've made UNI my home away from home by

finding a community of people who are passionate about the same things as I am.

More often than not, these passionate discussions of social and political issues take place in McGraw's home away from home: the Union. It's where I go to study, participate in student organizations, and hang out with friends. People sometimes ask if I actually go home to sleep, or if I keep a secret bed somewhere.

While she has had many experiences at the university, she still cites studying abroad in Spain as one of her top moments while studying at UNI. Though it isn't technically 'at UNI,' studying abroad was by far one of my most memorable experiences. I learned to look at the world through a different lens and vastly improved my Spanish skills along the way. (I still talk with my host mom!)

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

GEOSCIENTIST IN THE FIELD: DREW KREMAN



UNI alumni, Drew Kreman brings a fresh energy to the field of geology. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in geology in 2009, he went on to receive his Masters of Science in geology from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. He is now working as an Associate Geologist at Chesapeake Energy in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and has recently become the Young Professionals Mid-Continent Lead for the Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG.)

[The new position] allows me to get more involved in the student to young professional transition. I am very excited about this position and look forward to getting Iowa schools more involved in this organization at the university level.

During his time as a student at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, he had the opportunity to receive several scholarships and awards.

Going into the U of A, I received the Chesapeake Energy Scholarship and continued to receive this scholarship for the two years I attended the U of A. I am very grateful to have received this generous gift from Chesapeake Energy. My last year of graduate school I received an award of \$100 for 3rd. Best Poster Presentation at the annual AAPG Student Expo on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. This was a really neat experience and I was honored to have received the recognition for all the hard work I put into my thesis.

Kreman enjoys the challenges offered to him in working with a company like Chesapeake Energy. He has the opportunity to work with people as passionate and interested in geoscience as he is.

What I enjoy most about working here is the fast-paced, energetic work environment that I come to everyday. I am surrounded by mainly young, enthusiastic people like myself who want to better the company. Just being surrounded by people you enjoy working with makes coming to work every day more enjoyable.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

UNI GALLERY OF ART PRESENTS: FRITZ HIRSCHBERGER EXHIBITION

*Courtesy of
Darrell Taylor, Department of Art*



The University of Northern Iowa Gallery of Art will present a new exhibit, "Fritz Hirschberger: Sur-Rational Paintings and The Fifth Horseman" from Monday, October 29 through Tuesday, November 27. A lecture by Jodi Elowitz titled "After Such Knowledge: The Sur-Rational Holocaust Paintings of Fritz Hirschberger" was presented at 7:00 p.m., Monday, October 29th, in the Kamerick Art Building, Room 111.

Elowitz is outreach coordinator for the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Minnesota, organizer of this traveling exhibition. The exhibition and lecture were organized by the UNI Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education, and funded by the UNI College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences and the UNI Faculty Senate.

Fritz Hirschberger painted deeply layered, richly colored and angry evocations of Nazi barbarities. Expelled from Germany in 1938, Hirschberger fought in the Polish Army against the Nazis, survived a Soviet labor camp, and later fought against Rommel's forces in North Africa. Following the war, he studied art in London and New York where he began developing his skills; however, it was only after retirement in the 1980s that he began to truly concentrate on the horrors of World War II.

Drawing on European Renaissance, early 20th century German Expressionism, and medieval German Moritat traditions, Hirschberger filled his "Sur-Rational" and "Fifth Horseman" paintings with powerful and iconic imagery, many of which he paired with texts drawn from the works of Sylvia Plath, Alice Rogoff, and the testimonies of Holocaust survivors.

The UNI Gallery of Art will continue to present the UNI Permanent Art Collection exhibition titled "Masters at Mid-Century," which will run through December 15.

All events are free and open to the public. Gallery hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; noon to 5:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday and by appointment.



STEFF MCGRAW CONTINUED

McGraw is now a senior, studying both Spanish and Philosophy. She originally had an interest in learning Spanish, but it wasn't until she tried a language course at UNI that she discovered how passionate she really was about it. *Learning a new language is valuable in more ways beyond simply knowing that language. For instance, my understanding of the English language has improved, I've come to realize that translation cannot always convey full meaning, and through literature courses, I've gained an understanding of perspectives I'd never before considered.*

She credits much of her positive experience to the faculty in the Languages and Literatures Department that have worked with her in developing both her interest in other languages and new perspectives of the world. *I've had a really positive experience with the faculty. They are not only knowledgeable and passionate about their subject matter, but are also very skilled at teaching (something that is typically undervalued)*

While these faculty have invested in her life and helped her further her education, they have also played an influential role in changing and redefining her worldview. *I've had so many influential professors! One in particular is Dr. Soneson, head of the Department of Philosophy and World Religions. He's who got me into philosophy, and has somehow been able to simultaneously build my confidence while still being one of my most challenging professors. It doesn't usually work that way.*

McGraw may not yet have concrete plans for the future, but her confidence in the skills she has developed in the Department of Languages and Literatures will aid her in discovering a career that will allow her to use all of her creativity and passion.

I'm still unsure of what my future holds career-wise, but whatever I end up doing, I know I will be prepared to write well and think critically.

UNI FORENSICS TEAM UPDATE

*Courtesy of Katherine Lavelle,
Department of Communications Studies*

The UNI Forensics team had a busy week this past week, competing in four speech tournaments in three days. The team won second in team sweepstakes at all three tournaments, as well as 2nd in the weekend sweepstakes at the Creighton Swing. Over the weekend, the team went to the Creighton Double Up Tournament in Omaha. On Tuesday, the team went to the Twin Cities Forensics League #1 in Bloomington, MN. Seven students have qualified seven events to the American Forensics Association-National Individual Events Tournament that will be held in April. Michael Taylor has qualified in four events, Harrison Postler has qualified in two events and Keegan Bosch qualified in one event.

Students Michael Taylor, Zoe Russell, Harrison Postler, Keegan Bosch, Ryan Courtney, Scott Bredman, Jordan Lukehart, Heather Kelly, Greg Chittick, Nicole Torgerson, and Maddison Zayn Jansen all won awards this past week.

The team is in the middle of a three weekend stretch, where they will head to Wisconsin on Friday, the 26th for MAFL #3/4. On the debate side, they competed at the 57th Pflaum Debates at Emporia State University. They had some quality wins against the University of Kansas and the University of Missouri-Kansas City in the open division. Two students will be representing UNI at the Shirley Invitational (Wake Forest) in mid-November. This national tournament is one of the most prestigious tournaments of the season.

RECONROBOTICS CONTINUED FROM COVER



>>> THE THROWBOT XT

In addition to being recognized for his work with ReconRobotics, Drenner has also been recognized for a number of personal accomplishments, having received Incoming Graduate Student Fellowship at the University of Minnesota, the Merchant Award from UNI, the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship, and the Graduate Dissertation Fellowship from the University of Minnesota. He has also been a co-inventor on two issued patents and has several other patents pending.

While Drenner has accomplished a great deal professionally and personally, he still maintains a people-centered focus in the workplace and at home.

We strive to create a culture where everyone has fun, family comes first, we have a dog-friendly office (on any given day there are likely to be a half-dozen dogs in the office,) and we're incredibly flexible with time. When I'm not in the

office I enjoy hitting the gym, travelling and spending time with my family.

Drenner feels his experience at UNI has helped him in a number of ways. The curriculum of the Computer Science program was helpful in enriching my abilities as a computer scientist. When I entered graduate school, I felt very prepared for the work that I faced. At UNI, I developed a strong network with my classmates, my cohorts of Presidential Scholars, my coworkers, and faculty members in multiple disciplines. This network has helped me in countless situations throughout graduate school, as well as in my entrepreneurial endeavors.

These endeavors promise to remain a concentration in his future. For now, I'm looking ahead to the continued growth of ReconRobotics and finding new ways to use miniature robots. Those who are interested can see some of our products at www.reconrobotics.com.



>>> SOLDIERS USING THE THROWBOT XT

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

(ACS) STUDENT AFFILIATE GROUP



*Courtesy of Bill Harwood,
Department of Chemistry*

The ACS Affiliate Group is the main group for science majors and minors interested in chemistry and biochemistry. Members participate in a wide range of programs and activities that enhance their college experience and prepare them for successful careers. For example, together with the department, the ACS affiliate funds our students engaged in Undergraduate Research to attend the National ACS meeting in spring. Travel, registration, and hotel are covered for all attendees who present posters on the research they have conducted. In spring 2012, the meeting was in Anaheim, California and this coming spring it will be in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The ACS student affiliate has a lounge where students can eat lunch, study, or relax. Fun activities include movie nights, bowling, hockey games, and other activities for students to get together. They also are involved in blood drives and other community based activities. Special events include the Fall Family Weekend Chemistry Magic Show. This event is very popular and one where the faculty prepare demonstrations that the students perform for an audience of families. A regular crowd favorite is the “flaming bubbles” where children or adults can literally hold fire in their hands!

Also in the fall is the annual picnic with the faculty and staff. At the end of the semester we have a holiday party. In fall we also have the annual Halloween House where hundreds of children visit the department to eat Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream, see exciting demonstration, make “brains” and generally experience the fun side of science.

Spring brings on the competitive spirit with our MarCHEM Madness event. This involves student/faculty teams in competitions such as Team Titration, Van der Waals Volleyball, and Pi Eating (see picture below). Points are maintained and the team with the highest score wins the coveted “Golden Flask” award along

with their team name on a permanent plaque in the department office. The final event of the year is the spring banquet where we honor our graduating seniors and students who have won awards or scholarships from the department. We also have a short program from the outgoing and incoming officers of the ACS Affiliates. Traditionally, this involves some good natured ribbing of the faculty.



"SONS OF JACOB SYNAGOGUE" PREMIER

*Courtesy of Francesca Soans,
Department of Communication Studies*

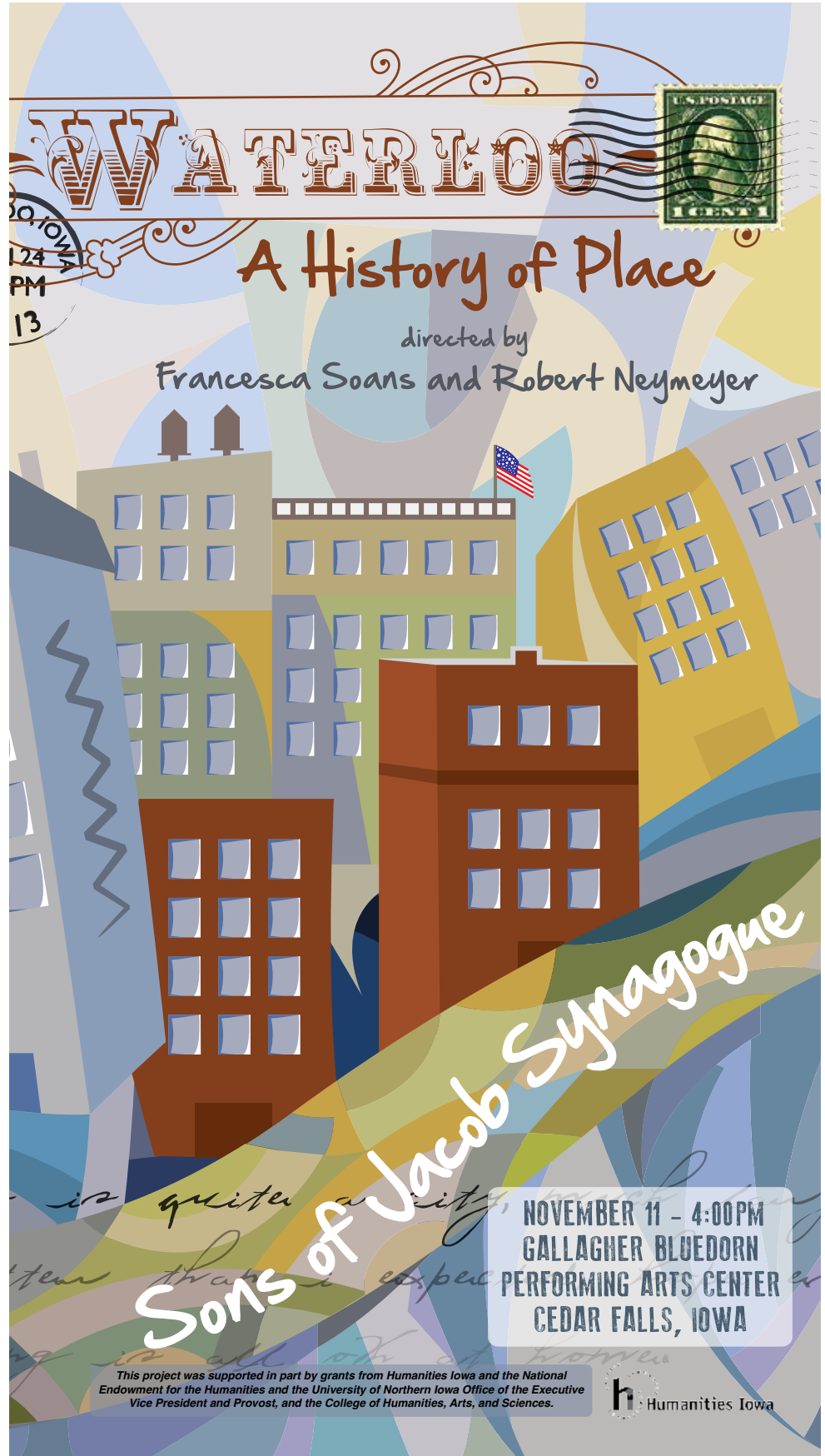
Sons of Jacob Synagogue, an hour-long documentary produced and directed by UNI professor of communication studies Francesca Soans and Robert Neymeyer, premieres on November 11, at 4:00 p.m., at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. The screening is free and open to the public.

The pioneering documentary explores the histories and experiences of the Jewish community in Waterloo, from the early immigrants seeking new opportunities to the present day. Weaving together archival footage, interviews, photographs, and texts, the video creates a complex picture of the identity of a community and its connection to place.

The film is the first in a five-part unique documentary series, Waterloo: A History of Place. The series examines the history of Waterloo through community memories of everyday places—a synagogue, a department store, a neighborhood, a factory and a movie theater.

Original music was composed by UNI professor of music, Rebecca Burkhardt, and motion graphics created by Brandon Poll and Grant Atherton.

The documentary received funding from Humanities Iowa, the University of Northern Iowa's Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, and the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences.





SCHOOL OF MUSIC EVENTS CONTINUED >>

UNI Student Chamber Music Concert

Thursday, November 29, 8:00 p.m.

Davis Hall, GBPAC

Coordinated by UNI School of Music professor of horn Yu-Ting Su and professor of cello Jonathan Chenoweth, students will offer a chamber music concert. This event is free and open to the public.

Northern Iowa Bach Cantata Series

Friday, November 30, 12:15 p.m.

McElroy Lobby, GBPAC

Members of the UNI Cantorei, Wind Symphony and Northern Iowa Symphony Orchestra will collaborate under the direction of conductor John Len Wiles to present Bach's *Schwungt freudig euch empor*, BWV 36. *This event is free and open to the public.*

T.E.A.M. TEACHING EDUCATORS ABOUT MATHEMATICS

*Courtesy of Dr. Brian Townsend
Department of Math*

Teaching Educators About Mathematics (TEAM) was established in the fall of 2006 as a two-fold student organization for UNI's Elementary and Middle Level education majors focusing on both professional development and service. TEAM became an official NCTM affiliate when Co-Presidents Kristin Kanaskie and Kayla Davis received TEAM's charter at the 2007 NCTM Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

At monthly meetings, investigative mathematical activities are explored by the membership. Invited speakers help to fill out the agendas. October's TEAM meeting featured a panel of outstanding UNI graduates who are currently working to implement a problem-based curriculum in Waterloo Public Schools. Perspectives from both teachers and administrators regarding implementation and preparation highlighted the discussion.

TEAM also works to send student members to statewide, regional, and national mathematics teacher meetings. This past spring, TEAM sent four students to the Iowa Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting in Des Moines, IA. Students have also attended regional and national meetings in St. Louis and Kansas City, Missouri.

In February, TEAM hosted its Sixth Annual Math Fair for local Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth grade students. Around 30 UNI TEAM members and faculty facilitated interactive exploration of mathematical games and activities for more than 75 elementary students from the area and their families, attending the event. The organization remains strong, with just over 50 members.

DREW KREMAN CONT.

In addition to working in a group of energetic and like minded individuals, Kreman also seeks new challenges in both the work place and at home.

I am constantly being challenged by my mentor and fellow colleagues to become a better geoscientist. I am always doing something different and learning new things everyday. Plus, our campus has a 72,000 sq. ft. fitness center and an all-purpose playing field used for soccer, football, ultimate Frisbee, and many other activities; and on Thursday afternoons in the summers we have a concert series (with free drinks and food!).

While he still continues to learn daily from colleagues and other young professionals, the knowledge he developed during his time at UNI has been the cornerstone in his development as a geoscientist.

Words cannot fully explain my appreciation for the Department of Earth Science and the University of Northern Iowa. I took so much out of my experience in Cedar Falls and will not forget the four memorable years I spent there. The faculty and staff of the department are wonderful and I enjoyed being a part of the small Earth Science group. I think my story is kind of unique because I chose geology as a major as an incoming freshman and have stuck with the geosciences since. I honestly don't know what other career path I would consider... [that] would be both this challenging and exciting at the same time.

While at UNI, Kreman had a number of professors and fellow students who took the time to invest in his academic and personal life. Now, as a successful geoscientist, Kreman wants to give back.

If there are any Earth Sciences students interested in a Geosciences position at Chesapeake Energy, or would like to know more about the AAPG, please feel free to contact me at drew.kreman@chk.com. Again, thanks Department of Earth Science and Go Panthers!

SAVE THE DATE: UNI PROMOTIONS ASSISTANT TO HOST VARIETY SHOW



CHAS Marketing Promotions Assistant, Ben Rendall will be hosting the upcoming Ben Rendall Variety Show. This event will be held at the Lampost Theatre and Coffeehouse on November 8th.

Rendall describes the show as a platform for a conglomeration of boredom-defying acts. In past shows, these acts have included a range of talents, such as magic shows, pie eating contests, and unicycling. All the acts performed at the show are original, local talent. Rendall's main goal for the event is to bring people together to see them laugh, relax, and forget about school or work for the night.

This family friendly event is free and open to the public. All ages are welcome. This year's show is shaping up to be just as exciting as years past, if not more so.

★ STOP THE BOREDOM ★

LAMPOST THEATRE & COFFEEHOUSE

NOVEMBER 8 At 9:30 POST MERIDIEM That's Slang For PM

UNI NAMED A TOP PICK IN 2012 STUDY ABROAD RANKINGS BY ABROAD101



Chad Heinzl's short-term program to Italy was recently named a Top Pick in the 2012 Abroad101 Study Abroad Rankings presented by STA Travel. Abroad101 is the world's first, largest, and fastest growing study abroad review website. Founded in 2007 by Tufts, Harvard, and MIT graduates, Abroad101's mission is to promote global citizenship by fostering the most meaningful study abroad experience for all students through technology innovation in international education.

The rankings are based on content extracted from over 16,000 student reviews collected on Abroad101. Many factors contributed to the final calculated rankings, including overall ratings given by students, number of reviews available, and in many cases, additional relevant data points found in Abroad101's review form. Heinzl's commitment to excellence in international education was recognized not only by UNI, but also by Abroad101. This is a great accomplishment for UNI, SAC, CHAS and the Department of Earth Science.

Last year, as you may recall, UNI SAC programs were ranked #4 in the nation for the academic quality. Now in its second year, the Abroad101 annual study abroad rankings awarded the UNI Study Abroad Center's Capstone in Southern Italy program for Top Short-term program.

KAREN MITCHELL CONT.

Mitchell enjoys many things about teaching at UNI. I have been blessed with outstanding students regardless of where I have taught. What made me STAY at UNI were the opportunities presented to me. I am a person who needs new challenges on a regular basis, and UNI has been a place that allows me to do that, both creatively and academically. Another reason I have stayed is that my closest friends are also my colleagues, and they are not all located in my department. Creative projects have taken me to other departments, other colleges, and other campuses. Interdisciplinary work is such an energizing experience, and I find it increases my productivity.

Mitchell has taught students at UNI for close to 22 years and has had the opportunity to work on novel adaptations and aid in investigations of popular culture icons. Her most recent work was in collaboration with Dr. Jennifer Cooley on "Carne viva: Stories of Monarchs and Madres in Postville," a play based on the largest United States immigration raid which took place in Postville, Iowa in 2008.

Mitchell will receive the prestigious award at the NCA's 98th Annual Convention in November, in Orlando, Florida.

I'm in the final decade of my academic career, so in some ways this is a "lifetime achievement" honor for me, which does not mean I am finished doing creative work; I am not. If anything, this honor rejuvenates me and reminds me of all that I still want to accomplish.

HEY. HEY, YOU.

GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SEE HERE?

Do you have some sweet article or organization you'd like to see showcased in the next edition of the Update? We, the creative geniuses over in CHAS Promotions, are always on the prowl for new and interesting things to feature. Send any cool events or news your way, secret agent reporter!

CHASUPDATE@UNI.EDU